

**“Nurses serve on the front lines of our health care system and are critical to caring for our seniors, families, and children,” said Costa. “This funding will strengthen our nursing workforce so Valley residents have access to the health care they need. Addressing our region’s shortage of health care professionals is vital to the future of our Valley, and these grants are another step forward.”**

Due to increased demand and an aging population, the San Joaquin Valley faces a growing nursing shortage. While Valley nursing programs have expanded, they would need to graduate 132% more nurses a year to meet even 90% of the current national average of nurses per 100,000 people by 2020. Costa has been actively working to increase the Valley’s health care workforce. This includes his efforts to develop a new medical school at UC Merced and his support for programs like the National Health Service Corps.

The California State University, Fresno will benefit from the following two grants:

**Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (\$90,021)** – Provides infrastructure funding to expand the capacity of the nursing pipeline, promote career mobility for individuals in nursing, prepare more nurses at the baccalaureate level, and provide continuing education training to enhance the quality of patient care.

**Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (\$56,376)** – Supports schools of nursing and individuals preparing to be many types of nurse specialists requiring advanced education.